

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act

Q How is Career and Technical Education funded?

A Programs receive about 1.3 billion annually from the federal government through the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. That represents about 8-10 percent of budgets for these programs, which receive most of their funding from local and state revenue. Other laws, such as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Higher Education act, The Workforce Investment Act, and School-to-Work Opportunities Act also fund programs.

Q How many career and technical students are there in the U.S.?

A There are 11 million secondary and postsecondary career and technical education students in the U.S., according to the U.S. Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

Q What are the five Perkins Performance Measures?

A The five performance measures are:

1. Academic and technical achievement;
2. Attainment of secondary school diploma;
3. Placement in, retention, and completion of postsecondary education, military service, or employment;
4. Participation in nontraditional programs that lead to nontraditional training and employment;
5. Number of students who receive a Career Major Certificate or a Certificate of Achievement.

Q Is there a definition of “administration” in the Act?

A Yes. Section 3-Definitions of Perkins III identifies “administration” as follows “Administration – the term ‘administration’ when used with respect to an eligible agency or eligible recipient, means activities necessary for the proper and efficient performance of the eligible agency or eligible recipient’s duties under this Act, including supervision, but does not include curriculum development activities, personnel development, or research activities”.

Q What is the definition of “nontraditional programs”?

A Nontraditional training and employment is defined in the Perkins Act as occupations or fields of work, including careers in computer science, technology, and other emerging high skill occupations for which individuals from one gender comprise less than 25 percent of the individuals employed in such occupation or field of work.

Q Is a district program area that received Perkins funding in the past automatically required to receive Perkins funds this year?

A No. It is a local determination as to which program areas receive assistance with Perkins funds.

Q Are middle school students eligible to receive Perkins funds?

A There is no direct funding allocated to grades seven and eight, but a district could support programs offered at the seventh and/or eighth grade level. It is a local determination as to which programs will be supported with Perkins funds and all interested parties are required to be a part of the discussion.

Q How are Perkins funds to be used?

A “Each eligible recipient that receives funds shall use such funds to improve career-technical education programs. Funds made available shall be used to support career-technical programs.” There are 8 required uses of funds that may be viewed at <http://www.kyschools.org/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Career+and+Technical+Education/Perkins+Accountability/Uses+of+funds.htm>

Q Are carry forward funds allowed for Perkins?

A No. All funds allocated to each LEA must be legally encumbered by June 30 of the current program year. Any money that is not encumbered by June 30 is released and reallocated to all LEAs by formula the following year. Encumbered funds are permissible for equipment and/or supplies ordered and recorded by June 30, but not expected to be received until after the June 30 date. Workshops, conferences, curriculum development and similar activities that will occur after the June 30 date cannot be encumbered with current year funds. Subsequent year funding which begins July 1 should be used for these activities.

Q Can a district buy textbooks with Perkins money?

A Yes. Perkins funds must supplement and not supplant funds from other sources. It is the district's responsibility to offer career-technical education courses.

Supplemental textbooks may be purchased with Perkins money.

Q Can a Career-Technical Student Organization (CTSO) advisors' out-of-state travel be paid by Perkins money?

A Yes. CTSO advisor's out-of-state travel, food and lodging may be funded by Perkins funds. Perkins may be used for teacher travel to supervise instructional student activities.

Q Can a district use Perkins funds to support only the six CTSOs identified in the State Plan or can other CTSOs be assisted with Perkins funds?

A A district may use Perkins funds for any career-technical student organization that meets the definition in the Act. The state supports the six CTSOs which include: FBLA-Future Business Leaders of America, DECA- Distributive Education Clubs of America, FCCLA-Family, Career, Community Leaders of America, SkillsUSA, HOSA- Health Occupations Student Association, and FFA- Future Farmers of America and TSA – Technology Student Association. In order to use Perkins funds each of the CTSOs must be an integral part of the career- technical educational program. Each career- technical program area must have a coherent sequence of courses in place in order to have Perkins funds used to assist the career-technical student organizations associated with the program area.

Q Can Perkins funds be used to build a computer lab?

A Yes. As long as the lab is used a part of the career-technical program areas coherent sequence of courses, Perkins funds may be used to help build a computer lab. In addition, the computer lab may be used by other students when not being used by those for whom it was originally built.

Q Can Perkins funds be used to pay for Information Technology tests and certifications?

A No. Perkins funds cannot be used to pay for tests and certifications such as A+ Net+, Cisco CCNA, Microsoft MOUS, etc.

Q How is a concentrator defined?

A A concentrator is a student who is following a sequence of career-technical courses and who has completed or plans to complete three credits in a career area as identified on their Individual Graduation Plan.

Q How is a completer defined?

A A completer is a student who earns four credits within a career major.

Q What criteria must a student meet to earn a Career Major Certificate?

A The criteria for a student to earn a Career Major Certificate are:

1. Successful completion of a sequence of academic and career-related courses in a career cluster/major
2. Participation in a work-based learning related to the career cluster/major, and
3. A culminating project related to the career cluster/major.

Q What criteria must a student meet to earn a Certificate of Achievement?

A A Certificate of Achievement is awarded based on two options:

Option 1 – A student who earns four credits within a career major;

Option 2 – A student enrolled in a specific occupational area who successfully obtains the competencies identified for a major ONET Title.